



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

## CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Adams, John O'Shaughnessy, Gary Riley, and Joe Wehr

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Olmsted and Terry Shook

OTHERS PRESENT: Leo Miller, Selectman; Joe Ryan, Town Attorney; Jessica Ciparelli, Reminder Press

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

MOVED (O'SHAUGHNESSY), SECONDED (ADAMS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPEN THE MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION (CRC) AT 7:05 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL, 55 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT.

#### 2. CITIZENS FORUM:

Mr. Wehr stated that the guest speakers from the Town of Mansfield have rescheduled their presentation to July, date to be determined.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. May 23, 2006 Regular Meeting

MOVED (ADAMS), SECONDED (RILEY) AND PASSED [O'SHAUGHNESSY ABSTAINED] TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2006.

#### 4. CONSIDER CHANGES TO TOWN CHARTER

- a. Form of Town Government

Mr. Wehr suggesting that the CRC include a question on the referendum ballot asking the voters if they are in favor of changing the current form of government to a Town Manager format. If the voters confirm that they are in favor of the change then the next CRC can work on the implementation plan. Joe Ryan agreed, noting that it makes a lot of sense to get the public's opinion before doing all the work to implement a change that may be defeated by the voters. The CRC agreed to include this suggestion in their final report to the Board of Selectmen.

There was some discussion regarding how the budget is passed with a Town Manager form of government. Mr. Miller stated that it is good for the Town to have budget referendums, allowing the voters to be involved in the budget process. The CRC felt the Board of Selectmen should have the option to send the budget to referendum or allow them to pass a budget at Town Meeting if there is no tax increase.

b. Town-wide Shared Services, including building Maintenance and Finance

Mr. Wehr briefly reviewed the presentation made by Larry Shaffer, Town Administrator for the Town of Vernon, at the June 21, 2006 meeting.

c. Other Changes

Mr. Wehr referenced his e-mail re: reviewing Charters from other Towns. Mr. Riley agreed to view the Charter from the Town of Cromwell; Mr. O'Shaughnessy will look at Charters for the Towns of Ansonia and Bethel; Ms. Adams will look at Rocky Hill's Charter. Mr. Wehr will assign Towns to the absent members.

The CRC reviewed the timeline to submit their final report. It was suggested that the CRC begin meeting twice a month, as the draft report is due in six months. The CRC will discuss this suggestion at the July 25 meeting.

Ms. Adams will review the minutes and prepare a list of the changes the CRC has agreed to include in their final report. Mr. Wehr will review the correspondence received to be sure the CRC has addressed all requests.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (RILEY), SECONDED (O'SHAUGHNESSY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
ADJOURN THIS MEETING AT 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Sauve  
Recording Secretary